

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 02417 01 OF 02 131656Z

41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DPW-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/155 W

----- 017642

R 131644Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0429

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE

REF: STATE O2O762

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF TEL, THE FOLLOWING ARE TRANSLATED EXCERPTS FROM COMMENT ON THE CEASE-FIRE:

2. DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, PRO-CDU, JANUARY 25: "THE WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM GOES ON. ONLY THE AMERICANS ARE NO LONGER THERE -- THEIR SOLDIERS, ADVISERS, THEIR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SPLENDOR, THEIR PLANES, AND THEIR JOURNALISTS WHO, FOR YEARS ON END, PUBLICIZED THE VIETNAM WAR IN ALL PHASES AND DETAILS TO NEAR SATIETY. IN ALL, ONLY SOME 7,000 AMERICANS ARE STILL IN SOUTH VIETNAM TODAY, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL REPORTS FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON, CONSTITUTING THE APPARENT BUT SOLE SUCCESS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT THAT ENTERED INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 28, 1973.

"WHAT THE WORLD HAD OVERLOOKED IN ITS SUPERFICIAL VIETNAM KNOWLEDGE AND VIETNAM WEARINESS WERE THE DEEPER CAUSES OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT WHICH THE AMERICAN PRESENCE HAD MERELY OVERSHADOWED. THE PAST 1,000 YEARS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 02417 01 OF 02 131656Z

OF VIETNAMESE HISTORY ARE ONE SINGLE CHAPTER OF CON-

FLICTS, WARS, HOSTILITIES, NATIONALISM, CULTURAL
CHAUVINISM, REGIONALISM AND RURAL AUTONOMY...

"DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE OFFICIAL CEASE-
FIRE, THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS CAME TO REALIZE THAT
(THEIR) OBJECTIVE (THE 'LIBERATION' OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND
ITS MERGER WITH THE NORTH) COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED
WITH POLITICAL METHODS ALONE. SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER
THERE HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP MILITARY OPERATIONS...

"IN ACTUAL FACT, THE PARIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS BUT A
DEAD DOCUMENT TODAY. ASIDE FROM THE PROVISIONS FOR
AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL NO SINGLE TREATY STIPULATION WAS MET.
INSTEAD, SOUTH VIETNAM HAS AGAIN BECOME (A THEATER OF
WAR)... THE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES IN THE YEAR OF THE
OFFICIAL CEASE-FIRE NUMBER 50,000.

"THE BLAME SURELY RESTS ON BOTH SIDES. BUT IN VIEW OF
HANOI'S DECLARED 'LIBERATION-' AND UNIFICATION POLICY,
IT MAY HARDLY BE HELD AGAINST PRESIDENT THIEU THAT HE
IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO PROTECT SOUTH VIETNAM FROM THE
COMMUNIST GRIP. THIS HAS MEANWHILE EVEN BEEN ACKNOW-
LEDGED BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS IN SAIGON ...

"WHETHER THE COMMUNISTS WILL DARE TO LAUNCH A NEW
OFFENSIVE OR WHETHER THEY WILL ADHERE TO THE CONCEPT OF
PERMANENT GUERILLA WARFARE REMAINS TO BE SEEN SHORTLY.
BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: PEACE FOR THE 20 MILLION
PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUES TO BE AS REMOTE AS
EVER. NEVERTHELESS, PRESIDENT THIEU'S CHANCES AND THOSE
OF HIS SOLDIERS TO RESIST THE COMMUNIST
CHALLENGE ON THE BATTLEFIELD SEEM TO BE GREATER TODAY
THAN AT ANY TIME BEFORE."

3. THE INDEPENDENT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG,
JANUARY 29: "...PRESIDENT THIEU PROVED TO BE MUCH
STRONGER THAN MANY HAD EXPECTED. AS IT LOOKS NOW, THE
VIETCONG CAN NO LONGER FORCE HIM DOWN. BUT IT IS
EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THIEU IS UNABLE TO CHASE THE VIET-
CONG OUT OF THE AREAS THEY CONTROL ... THOSE WHO WON
WERE THE AMERICANS WHO, WITH KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY,
SUCCEEDED IN EXTRICATING THEMSELVES FROM THEIR VIETNAM
ENTANGLEMENT WITHOUT SACRIFICING THEIR PRESTIGE IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA..."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 02417 01 OF 02 131656Z

4. RHEINISCHER MERKUR, FEBRUARY 1, ALSO SPOKE OF
"KISSINGER'S MASTER-PIECE" IN DISENGAGING THE U.S.
FROM ITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMITMENT "WITHOUT LOSING
FACE MILITARILY." IT WENT ON: "DEVELOPMENTS SHOWED
THAT, CONTRARY TO CURRENT OPINION, POLITICALLY LEFTIST-
ORIENTED THROUGHOUT, GI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH VIETNAM
AND CAMBODIA HAS NOT ONLY FAILED TO IMPROVE THE LOT

OF THE PEOPLE THERE BUT HAS RATHER WORSENEDED THE
SITUATION TO THE POINT OF SEEMING HOPELESSNESS. THE
PROPAGANDA THESIS SIMPLY DIDN'T PROVE RIGHT THAT, ONCE
THE AMERICANS DISAPPEARED, THE COMMUNIST, BUDDHIST AND
PRO-WESTERN VIETNAMESE, AS WELL AS THE OTHER PEOPLES OF

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 02417 02 OF 02 131651Z

41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DPW-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/155 W

----- 017615

R 131644Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0430

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02417

INDOCHINA WOULD ASSEMBLE AROUND A BIG TABLE TO
ACCELERATE, WITHIN THEIR OWN INTEREST, THE ROAD TO
PEACE..."

5. THE INDEPENDENT KIELER NACHRICHTEN, JANUARY 26:
"HENRY KISSINGER, ONE YEAR AGO ON JANUARY 27, CONCLUDED
A CEASE-FIRE, NOT A PEACE TREATY. THIS IS TOO EASILY
FORGOTTEN AMID THE HOPES THAT THIS AGREEMENT SPURRED...
HOWEVER, THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE DID NOT BECOME REALITY
FOR ONE SINGLE DAY ... NORTH VIETNAM'S OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE VIETCONG'S MASSIVE
ARMAMENT THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT
GIVE RISE TO GROWING FEAR THAT HANOI MIGHT SOON EVEN
GIVE UP THE PRETENSE AND DECLARE THE AGREEMENT NULL AND
VOID. FOR IT HAS NOT YET REACHED ITS WAR AIM ...

"THIEU'S REGIME -- AS ONE OF KISSINGER'S CONDITIONS --
IS STILL IN POWER ... BUT THE U.S. OFFER OF SEVERAL
BILLION DOLLARS OF RECONSTRUCTION AID TO MAKE PEACE
PALATABLE TO HANOI WAS BLOCKED BY CONGRESS ... THE
CONGRESS HAS (ALSO) ENFORCED A TOTAL BOMBING STOP IN ALL
OF INDOCHINA AND CURTAILED THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO
DECLARE WAR ... AMERICAN DETERRENCE HAS LOST ITS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 02417 02 OF 02 131651Z

HORROR ... HOPE FOR PEACE, ALSO FOR A NON-COMMUNIST
VIETNAM TODAY RESTS SOLELY WITH KISSINGER'S ELOQUENCE
AND POWER OF CONVICTION WHICH CANNOT BE VALUED TOO
HIGHLY. BUT THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH TO SOLVE THE INDOCHINA
PROBLEM."
HILLENBRAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN02417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740237/aaaabiex.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE O2O762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE
TAGS: PINS, VS, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005